



Pencil and Crayon Rubbing



Rubbing started a long time ago, far away in East Asia in China and Japan. Before photography was invented Japanese fishermen used a type of rubbing to record the size of the various fish that they caught. It is called **gyotako** (Jee-oh-TAU-koo) Today scientists are studying these rubbings to learn more about historic fish populations.

Watch this video to find out more about how *gyotako* is done. You will not hear any words so you can give all your attention to the steps the artist takes.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bDH0sA_vJJk

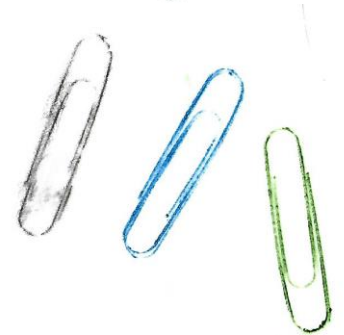
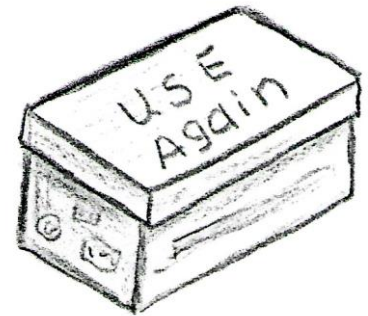
After Juan watched the video he wanted to learn how to do his own rubbings.

He found the shoe box on which he had printed “Use Again”. Juan chose some different pieces of white paper, broken crayons with the paper peeled off, and some short pencils

“Perfect! Now, I can try to do rubbings,” he thought. Then he watched this video to learn some tips on how to do rubbings himself.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Us5thEebjTI>

After Juan watched, he tried rubbing over a paperclip with a pencil. It worked! Next, he tried rubbing with broken, peeled crayons. They worked!



Directions for Pencil and Crayon Rubbing Outside

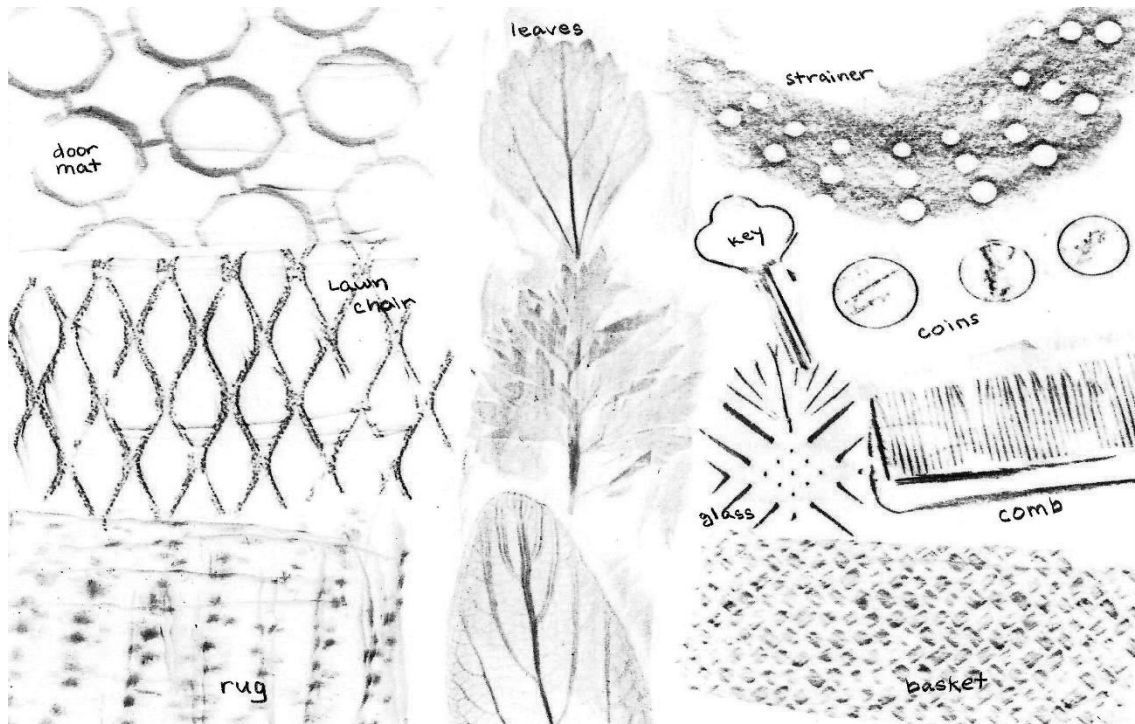
1. Look for what you might rub – tree barks, fallen leaves or flowers, brick walls, bumpy rocks, fences, sidewalk cracks, plaques in parks or on statues, metal covers for gas or water service, doormats, lawn furniture.
2. Steps for rubbing:
 - a. Press a sheet of white paper against the item. (If you are afraid the paper will slip, you can secure it with scotch tape.)
 - b. Gently rub **the side** of the crayon or pencil lead until the pattern of the item shows.




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What if it is raining? You can do the rubbing inside! Look for things with texture or holes in them. Here are some examples of things you can rub:



 We can show kindness to our environment by taking care of it. Rubbing lets us enjoy the beauty of things in our world without hurting anything in nature or property.

Juan was excited about rubbings and *gyotako* so he combined the two ideas to make some “fish” rubbings by using leaves. This is how they turned out.

